

WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST

USDA Forest Service | Forest Access & Travel Management Newsletter •

August 18 2014

EXISTING CONDITION ROAD MAPS

A Message from the Forest Supervisor...

Dear Partners and Interested Public:

When I came to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF) in 2013, I heard from many of you that the Forest needed to get a better handle on the condition of the Forest Service system roads and motorized trails, and how they were being used. I agree with you that it is essential to have a map showing existing conditions before we can begin to discuss management of the Forest's road and motorized trail system for the future. Some may wonder what we mean by existing conditions. For this effort we are interested in the following: which Forest Service system roads or trails are being used and how (full size vehicles, ATVs, horses, etc.), or conversely is the road "grown in" with vegetation blocking the road etc. To complete the accurate maps you asked me to produce, I asked WWNF staff members to create a map that depicts the existing condition of the Forest Service system road and motorized trail network. In developing the maps, we used our road database and compatible information provided by counties, organizations, and individuals during the travel management process, along with recent on-the-ground information provided by our Forest employees.

We have a set of existing condition road and motorized trail maps now ready for your review and comment. **So, we need your help...** Here's my request to you or any other individuals you know who might want to help. Over the time **between now and November 28th**, we ask that you check out the map to answer this one question, **"Do these maps accurately reflect how the Forest Service system roads and motorized trails that you are familiar with, are being used?"** If not, then please provide updated information to us utilizing the Existing Condition Road and Trail Information form we've provided.

This request is not about whether a road or motorized trail *should be open or closed*— it is *only* about **whether the maps are correct regarding their current condition and type of motorized use**. Your information will help us update the maps over the winter, with complete updated maps by next spring. We will then use these updated existing condition road and motorized trail maps, in combination with the analysis for the sustainable road

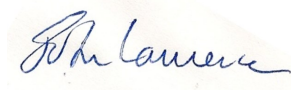


for the greatest good

system (Subpart A of the Travel Management Rule), as the starting point to begin the official public planning process to be in compliance with the 2005 Travel Management Rule. This Rule does require every National Forest to produce a Motorized Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) at the end of the planning effort. The WWNF effort will include public involvement in order to help the Forest identify a designated system of roads, trails, and areas for public motorized vehicle use on the WWNF. Once the travel management planning effort is complete, the network of designated roads, trails, and areas will be displayed on a MVUM.

It takes 19 maps to cover the travel planning area of the WWNF (except areas already covered by an existing travel plan, such as Hells Canyon NRA). I believe the maps are simple and understandable, and hope you will as well. The maps are drawn at a larger scale so they are easier to read and are labeled with the full 7-digit road number on each road making it easier to provide comments. I understand that this is a large undertaking. I hope you will join us in this important effort.

Sincerely,



John Laurence, Forest Supervisor, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Where Can I View the Maps?

Maps are available for download from the web on the WWNF web site at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ExistingConditionRoadMaps>. Instructions for printing portions of the maps you are interested in from your home computer are described in this newsletter and are also located on the web site. Due to the high cost of production (approximately \$125/set), we are providing a **set of printed maps to the Baker, Union, Wallowa, and Grant County Commissioners; and the Nez Perce Tribe and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla**. In addition, the maps are also available on **Compact Disc (call 541-523-1246 for a CD)** or for **viewing** at:

- **La Grande Ranger District**, 3502 Highway 30, La Grande, OR
- **Whitman Ranger District**, 1550 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR
- **Whitman Ranger District** – Halfway Office, 38470 Pine Town Lane, Halfway, OR
- **Wallowa Mountains Office** (Eagle Cap, Hells Canyon NRA, and Wallowa Valley Ranger Districts), 201 East 2nd St., Joseph, OR

If you have a smart phone or a tablet, these maps can also be used with the Avenza PDF Maps App that is available free for use with iOS (Apple) or Android products at: www.avenza.com. This is not an endorsement of Avenza's App, merely another option for your consideration to be able to view the maps. The App uses your device's GPS location system to tell you exactly where you are on the map when you are out in the forest. Once you are in the App, the WWNF Existing Condition Road maps covering the area you will be visiting can be downloaded from the forest website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ExistingConditionRoadMaps> from the Avenza PDF App. Learn more about the App at: www.pdf-maps.com/.

Where Did the Information on the Maps Come From?

The base layer was taken from the Forest Service road inventory that is stored in the Forest Service database of record. This information was updated utilizing the survey information provided by the public, primarily local citizens, as well as the Baker, Union, and Wallowa County survey efforts conducted from 2007-2012. These maps were further updated with information added by Forest Service employees across the WWNF based on their personal knowledge of the condition and use of Forest roads during activities completed and areas they have worked in within the last 3-5 years.



How to Read the Maps?

While the Forest has a lot of information about the types of motorized vehicle use on those roads and trails, that information is not displayed on these maps. These maps are simplified because it becomes too confusing to have a dozen or more categories in the legend on the maps. Following are the categories used on the maps:

Green: Roads that are open and are being used by some type of motorized vehicle during some portion of the year. Roads that have seasonal closures are green on the map even though they may not be available for motorized use year round; however do receive some level of use during part of the year when they are open to the public

Red: Roads that are closed, either by a Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) order or with a constructed barrier as the result of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decision, and are not being used by motorized vehicles.

Yellow: Roads that have been closed, either by a CFR or after a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decision, and have had a physical closure device installed, but are being used by some type of motorized vehicle.

Gray: Roads which have been closed at some point in time but neither the public nor Forest Service employees have reported any motorized vehicle use information for these roads. These include many roads that may be grown in and are impassable, as well as roads which may be being used, but there has been no further information provided.

Gray Areas: These areas on the maps already have existing travel plans.

Note: Forest Service System roads typically have a brown fiberglass post with the road number on it. If it does not have a posted road number, then it is likely not a system road. If the map shows the road as a system road but the fiberglass route marker is missing, please make a note of it in your documentation on the Existing Condition Information form.



How Can YOU Help?

What the Forest is asking from you is: **“Do these maps accurately reflect how the Forest Service system roads and motorized trails, that you are familiar with, are being used?”** If not, then please provide updated information to us utilizing the **Existing Condition Road and Trail Information form we’ve provided**. This effort is **NOT** about whether a road should or should not be open in the future. That will be a separate discussion at a future date and time. These maps do not include the type of vehicles that are using these roads; however that information is available on the web at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ExistingConditionRoadMaps>.

Existing Condition Information				
Name	Smokey Bear		Phone #	541-963-7186
			Email	smokeybear@fs.fed.us
Road Number: Full 7-digit number	5178045			
Road Status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed		
Vehicle Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Full sized (Cars, trucks, jeeps, 4x4s)		
		UTV/Side-by-Sides		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OHV/ATV/Quads		
		Motorcycle		
Observation Date:	Date: Sept, 4, 2014			
Comments:	Gray line is being used by full size vehicles from Section 14 to junction of FSR 5178025; then OHV use from junction to end.			

Please provide your phone number and/or email so when we begin updating the maps with your information we will be able to contact you if we have any questions or need some clarification.

Information received will be updated periodically in a data table on the forest web site at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/accesstravelmanagement> where you can check to see if information has already been provided in an area you are interested in.

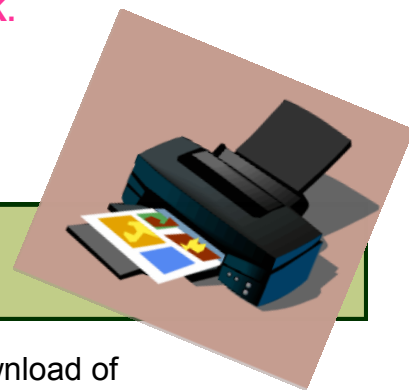
“Geo-tagged” photos—pictures that have location information imbedded, such as those taken with most smart phones or tablets—are also quite helpful to document the conditions you see on the ground. Please send your photos to the Forest email address: wnnf_travel_mgmt_plan@fs.fed.us.



If you are providing information on printed copies of the maps, it is most helpful if the information coming to us is consistent. We recommend the following process:

1. Take a look at the **Red**, **Green** and **Gray** roads in your favorite areas on the maps and see if they match how you feel they are being used or not used. If not, then please update the **Red** or **Green** roads, or add information to **Gray** roads directly on a copy of that section of the map by:
 - a. **Highlighting roads in GREEN** – If **Red** or **Gray** roads are being used on-the-ground by motorized vehicles, highlight them in **GREEN** on the map and write the type of vehicle using the road (OHV, full size, motorcycle, UTV) next to it or in the margin of the map with a line to the road you've highlighted.
 - b. **Highlighting roads in PINK** – If **Green** or **Gray** roads are physically closed on-the-ground and/or are not being used by motorized vehicles, highlight them in **PINK**.
2. Fill out a form on each road and return to the Forest Service.
3. If you need assistance, please call 541-962-8501 or 541-523-1246.

Printing From the Web or CD



1. You must have Adobe Reader to view and print these maps. A free download of Adobe Reader is available at: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.
2. Maps can also be found on line at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ExistingConditionRoadMaps>.
3. To find which map you wish to view, open the Map Locations document and determine which map numbers cover your area of interest.
4. Double click on the map you wish to view and the map will open in your browser window. Use the Scroll Bar on the right to move the map up and down to find the location you wish to view.
5. Each map is 36" x 48" in size. To print the entire map, it needs to be printed on a plotter capable of printing maps of this size.
6. To zoom and print a smaller section of the map on your home computer, open the PDF file on your computer and from the Edit tab at the top of your screen, select "Take a Snapshot".
7. Scroll to the portion of the map you wish to Snapshot, use the cursor to highlight that area. Click "File" at the top of the page and select "Print". Uncheck "Choose paper Source by PDF Size Range".
8. It will print on 8.5 x 11 paper and you can either choose "Actual Size" and it will print as much of the area you selected as fits on that size of paper OR you can choose "Fit" and it will shrink the portion of the map you chose in order to fit it all on the paper.
9. Press Print.
10. If you have further questions, please call 541-523-1246 or 543-962-8501.



FORMS MAY BE SUBMITTED:

♦ **In person:**

Existing Condition Information Collection Boxes at each District Office.

♦ **Mail:**

WWNF Road Use Map Information, 3502 Highway 30, La Grande, OR 97850

♦ **Email:**

wwnf_travel_mgmt_plan@fs.fed.us

MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman>

(541) 523-1246 or (541) 962-8501

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
PO Box 907
Baker City, OR 97814